



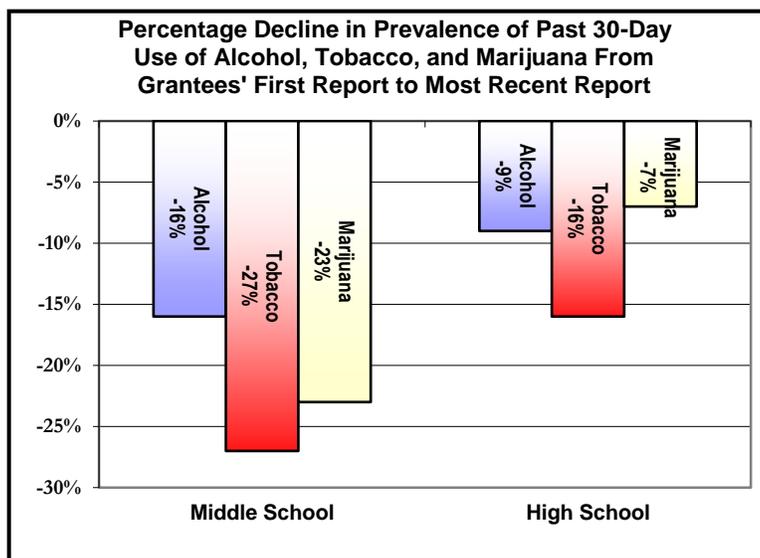
## National Evaluation of the Drug Free Communities Support Program Summary of Findings through 2010

***The goals of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFC) are to strengthen community collaboration and to reduce youth substance use.***

Administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant program supports community coalitions in preventing and reducing youth substance use. The contributions of community coalitions constitute a critical part of the Nation's drug prevention infrastructure. They are a catalyst for creating local change where drug problems manifest and affect the citizens of this country. DFC grantees are required to provide data for the national evaluation of DFC, and a summary of findings from these grantee-reported data follows.

### What Have We Found So Far?

- **Rates of Substance Use Have Declined Significantly in DFC Communities:** Prevalence of past 30-day use declined significantly across all substances (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana) and school levels (middle and high school) between DFC coalitions' first and most recent data reports (see figure). Prevalence of past 30-day use was significantly lower for DFC high school students as compared to a nationally-representative sample of high school students taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Differences in prevalence of 30-day use between DFC and YRBS were statistically significant for alcohol in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Differences in prevalence of 30-day use were also statistically significant for marijuana in 2003, 2005, and 2007, but not in 2009.



- **Perceptions of Substance Use are Moving Significantly in the Right Direction:** Perception of risk increased significantly for alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use among DFC youth at both the middle and high school levels between DFC coalitions' first report and most recent report. Moreover, youth perception of parental disapproval increased significantly for alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use over the same period.

### Recent Trends

The following trends were observed among grantees that reported outcome data in 2010. Because DFC grantees are required to report outcome data every 2 years, these recent trends are based on data from less than half of DFC grantees.

- **Middle School Alcohol Use and High School Alcohol and Tobacco Use Continued to Decline Significantly in DFC Grantee Communities:** Among DFC grantees that reported data in 2010, there was a significant decline in prevalence of alcohol use at both the middle school level (-3.5 percentage points) and high school level (-3.1 percentage points) from their next most recent report (almost evenly split between 2008 and 2009 data). High school tobacco use also decreased significantly (-1.0 percentage point) during this time period.
- **Prevalence of Past 30-Day Use of Marijuana is Increasing and Perceptions of Risk of Marijuana Use are Declining:** Among DFC grantees that reported data in 2010, prevalence of marijuana use among high school youth increased significantly (+1.1 percentage points) from their next most recent report. During this same time frame, there was a significant decline (-4.5 percentage points) in perception of risk for using marijuana among high school youth in these DFC communities. The recent trend in increased prevalence of marijuana use mirrors results from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health, which reported that 30-day use of marijuana increased by 0.7 percentage points between 2008 and 2010.

*The design of the DFC evaluation cannot support causal claims that the program's activities resulted in improvements in drug use and related attitudes among youth in DFC communities; alternative explanations for the observed changes cannot be ruled out. However, the results are consistent with the premise that the DFC program is effective in reducing substance use and improving anti-substance use attitudes among youth.*

### ONDCP | DFC National Outcome Evaluation Status Update

*ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities  
by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences*